

SECOND RECORD OF SOUTH AMERICAN BURROWING BUG, *SCAPTOCORIS CASTANEUS* PERTY (HEMIPTERA: CYDNIDAE) IN THE UNITED STATES¹

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ABSTRACT: A second North American population of the neotropical *Scaptocoris castaneus* Perty was found among beach plants on a sand dune in Georgia about 200 miles south of the initial find in South Carolina.

While collecting on Little Cumberland Island, Camden County, Georgia, in September 1982, Steiner discovered five adult specimens of the South American burrowing bug, *Scaptocoris castaneus* Perty; this locality is approximately 200 miles south of Charleston, South Carolina, whence the species was originally reported in North America by Froeschner and Chapman (1963). That paper included a dorsal habitus drawing. Whether this represents a separate introduction into the United States due to dumping of ballast by early sailing ships (see paper cited) or a part of the same introduction reported for Charleston, South Carolina, is not now evident. Further collecting along the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia is needed to determine if the two populations are continuous.

Three of the Georgia specimens of *S. castaneus* (28 September 1982) were found among the roots of European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria* (L.) Link) and sea-oats (*Uniola paniculata* L.) on a primary ocean beach dune; bugs were exposed by digging into the top of the slip-face of the dune and were found at depths of 8-15 cm in slightly moist sand. At the same locality on 30 September 1982, two more specimens were taken during the late afternoon on the sand surface of a trail through the dunes. These cydnids bear a remarkable similarity to some scarabaeid and tenebrionid beetles which also inhabit dune sand; the globular, rugose body, bladelike front tibiae and stout hind legs with reduced tarsi, and long setae on legs and venter are seen in many unrelated taxa which have evolved a psammophilous way of life.

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LITERATURE CITED

- Froeschner, R.C. and Q.L. Chapman. 1963. A South American cydnid, *Scaptocoris castaneus* Perty, established in the United States (Hemiptera: Cydnidae). Ent. News. 74: 95-98.

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